

What to Do When You're Jewish at Christmas

Perform a mitzvah, that's what! Join the sixth annual CSZ-led Bay Area Jewish community support of Project Open Hand on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You can help by preparing or delivering meals and gifts to Open Hand's clients, people living with AIDS. There are over 300 volunteer opportunities. Our effort assures that over 2,000 meals and gift packages will be delivered. So don't be shy! Join your fellow CSZ'ers who have made this a December tradition. To register through CSZ, the deadline is December 7. To register by phone and for more information, call Rosalinda del Moral (641-1799). After December 7, call Project Open Hand directly (558-0600) and tell them you would like to be part of the Jewish community effort.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Batya Billinkoff & Danielle Billinkoff

Michael Frank

David Gallego

Nancy Polikoff

Richard Rath

Beth Ross & Laura Trupin

Nina Jo Smith

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Call for Klezmerim

The Klezmer band is a centuries-old tradition that originated in Central and Eastern Europe. Organized professional musicians would play for weddings and other Jewish simchas. Some klezmerim traveled from city to city, entertaining Jewish and non-Jewish audiences alike.

In the past two decades, along with an increased interest in rediscovering Yiddish culture, Klezmer music has gained popularity and various ensembles have sprouted up in cities all over the country.

We are trying to create a Sha'ar Zahav Klezmer band and several musicians have already expressed interest. We hope to get together a group that could play at celebrations and maybe with our contingent at the Gay Pride Parade.

If you are a musician (instrumentalist or singer) and would like to be a klezmer, call Devra Noily (753-5097) or Jonathan Comisar (931-8667).

UAHC Biennial Volunteers: Thanks!

Approximately 18 months ago, Sharon Silverman — past president of Sherith Israel and president of the Northern California Region of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) — asked me to join the steering committee of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 62nd General Assembly of the UAHC, to be held in San Francisco in October 1993. Sharon explained that approximately 4,000 Reform Jews would come to San Francisco for the convention and that we would need several hundred volunteers from local UAHC congregations to help out.

I said yes to her and I took on the job of co-chairing the volunteer effort — recruiting volunteers and scheduling them to work during the Biennial. My co-chair, David Monasch of Peninsula Temple Sholom, Rosyland Bauer of Beth Am (co-chair of Local Arrangements), Sharon (chair of Local Arrangements) and I called ourselves the Biennial Local Arrangements Committee "Big Four." We asked all Reform synagogues in our region to appoint a temple chair — a

person responsible for recruiting people from his or her synagogue to volunteer during the Biennial. Many thanks to Allyce Kimerling, chair of the regional UAHC Social Action Committee, who was the temple chair for Sha'ar Zahav.

The Big Four met monthly, eventually expanding the Local Arrangements Committee to 40 people, who represented 13 different Reform synagogues in Northern California.

Sha'ar Zahav, one of the smaller congregations in our region, had the second-largest number of volunteers on the Local Arrangements Committee. (Only Beth Am, in Los Altos Hills, outdid us.) Thanks to the following Sha'ar Zahavniks for their dedication and outstanding contribution to the local effort: Diana Buchbinder and Allyce Kimerling, co-chairs of the Volunteer Office; Jeff Forman, co-chair of Ushers; Mike Rankin (who serves on the national UAHC Board), co-chair of the Information Desk; and Michael Zimmerman, co-chair of Volunteer Training.

Continued on page 6

Brotherhood Events

The next Brotherhood Potluck will be on Sunday, December 19, in the Oneg Room at 5 pm. The next Brotherhood Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 4 at the home of Barney Ugarte, 6445 Geary Blvd., Apt. 5, at 7 pm. If you have questions about either event, call Barney Ugarte at 386-2472.

Preschool Chavurah Chanukah Party

Come join the CSZ Children's Preschool Chavurah for our first Chanukah celebration with our two- to five-year-old children. All families are welcome to join us for candle lighting, singing, gifts and latkes! This extra-special event will take place on Sunday, December 12 from 6-8 pm at 2635 Woolsey in Berkeley. For further information and to RSVP, call Jody Adelberg (510/655-6850).

How We Made Friends And Influenced People

The weekend of October 22-24 saw more than 4,000 Jews descend upon the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco for the biennial conference of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations: the UAHC. The UAHC is the national umbrella organization of Reform Jews. Virtually all Reform temples in the United States and Canada — including Sha'ar Zahav — belong to the UAHC.



Tiela Chalmers

The Biennial was a tremendous experience. There were services every morning (generally several variations: traditional, feminist, study-oriented) and workshops throughout the day (ranging from phi-

Gay and lesbian Jews increasingly have had a significant voice within the UAHC, and an opportunity to influence its political, social and religious stances. Our member and past president, Mike Rankin, has served for some time on the UAHC's national Board of Directors, and just had the honor of being elected to serve on that Board's Executive Committee. Several other members are involved with the UAHC at the local and regional level. Still more of us, who attended this and previous Biennials, have been asked to participate on various panels. And, of course, there are participants from other temples like ours, too.

Have we made a difference? Consider this: Rabbi Saperstein, addressing more than 4,000 Jews from temples all over the country, made reference to the "God-

synagogues, the UAHC, its rabbinic colleges and rabbis' organization (CCAR) extend benefits, including health care benefits, to the families of gay and lesbian employees. He made a moving appeal for inclusiveness:

We are pledged to the concept that we are one family. We will not speak of "them" and "us," as though gay men and women were descended from a distant planet. They are our fellow congregants, our friends and committee members — and, yes, our leaders both professional and lay. Some of them are our brothers and sisters, our daughters and our sons. Ours is the commitment to the re-forming of Judaism for the Jewish people, for all Jews and not just for some.

Heady stuff, this, and terrifically exciting to hear from the leader of such a mainstream organization. We grinned at each other; we raised our heads a

CASTRO PHOTO

4115 19th Street at Castro
San Francisco, CA 94114
552-6894



Merrill Lynch

Julian L. Lathan
Financial Consultant

Private Client Group

101 California Street
24th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111
415 274 6110
FAX 415 274 6191

losophy to synagogue management), alternating with plenary sessions for everyone. Two rooms were filled with crafts from all over, and there was a bookstore, too. At night, music and entertainment went on into the wee hours.

Our membership in the UAHC is not cheap: we pay a significant amount of money each year in dues. But what we get in exchange is also significant. We are a part of an organization that represents more than half of all American Jews affiliated with synagogues. We have the chance to add our voice to a powerful lobby, both here in the United States and, to some extent, in Israel. The U.S. Congress does not always rush to the phone when it hears that Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is calling; it takes the call, though, when Rabbi David Saperstein, the UAHC representative in Washington, is on the line.

given rights of gays and lesbians." And this was not apparently controversial; not a murmur was heard. Rabbi Alexander Schindler, the revered president of the UAHC, whose address was reported in the Jewish press, the *New York Times* and on the front page of the local papers, also spoke of gay rights. His suggestions for the role of the non-Jew in the synagogue, and in outreach to the unaffiliated, were controversial. But his statements urging members of the UAHC to "extend our commitment to gay and lesbian Jews," on the other hand, seemed completely uncontroversial. Rabbi Schindler urged the UAHC to adopt a resolution calling on federal, state and local governments to permit gay and lesbian couples to adopt children, file joint tax returns, and to share in the benefits accorded to heterosexual couples. He also urged that member

little higher in pride.

When we heard Rabbi Schindler's speech, we knew that a resolution promoting the gay and lesbian portion of his address would be presented to the plenary the following day. We scurried to gather our forces. In whispered sessions at the back of the main hall, we formulated strategy. I planned to take my daughter, Kailin, who had been "coochie-cooed" by almost every delegate, up to the microphone and to explain that this "gezunde" baby, so like their own children and grandchildren, had two moms who simply wanted the basic rights heterosexual delegates took for granted.

When debate turned to the gay rights resolution, we were a little nervous. It would be hard to feel so bonded to our fellow Jews, and then have them reject

Continued on page 8

He's played your song at the Elephant Walk, JJ's, Rosalie's, Ruby's, and the Swallow.

Now he plays by menorah light!

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav presents:

A PIANO BAR CHANUKAH

Featuring pianist Dennis Crow

Plus Food, Raffle
& Silent Auction

Saturday, December 11, 1993

7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Menorah lighting at 7:30



Bring your own menorah!

St. Paulus Lutheran Church

950 Gough at Eddy, San Francisco

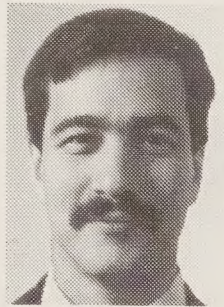
Space donated by People Place Services, Inc.

\$7 for CSZ members, \$9 for nonmembers; kids free

To reserve child care or for more info, please call Joe Hample, 621-7675

Chanukah

Chanukah, the festival of lights, is at the center of our December. Like every Jewish ritual and holiday, Chanukah has multiple meanings and associations — some ancient, some added over the generations and some the product of our own celebrations. Often people ask me: "Why do we do this or that practice? What does it mean?" I try to give as honest an answer as I can but I fear that my very effort to answer is misleading because everything means a lot. Consider some of the meanings of Chanukah and the menorah.



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

In its origins, Chanukah is a story about a civil war. Objecting to the forced worship of the local emperor, militant Jews took to the hills and began a guerrilla war. They were revolutionaries or freedom fighters. Their example has been an inspiration to contemporary Jews resisting oppression. To the early Zionists, the militant activism of the Maccabees offered an alternative model to the passivity they perceived in the mainstream Jewish community of their day.

The militarism of the Hasmoneans, the clan which led the revolt, was troubling to succeeding generations. After later attempts at reestablishing Jewish sovereignty were cruelly suppressed, a new emphasis on the miraculous nature of the Maccabean revolt emerged. These Jews focused less on the military struggle and more on the Temple — especially the story of the single jar of oil which lasted for eight days. The spiritual message they saw in Chanukah was the redeeming power of God's help which can turn a very small fire into an enduring blaze of hope.

Chanukah itself means "dedication". After the Temple was recovered and restored, it was rededicated. The celebration lasted for eight days. Lighting the menorah invites us to return to the themes of the High Holidays, once again asking ourselves about our own dedication. What is most important in our life? How do we dedicate our limited resources? What are we doing to keep the flame of inspiration and hope

burning within ourselves and in the world?

At its core Chanukah is a story of resistance to conformity with the majority and dominant culture. For many in our community the "Winter holidays" are a time when they feel isolated and marginalized. One large dreidel picture or a single menorah does little to counter the overwhelming flood of Christmas music, imagery and hype. [My personal solution — I don't do retail during December.] Chanukah is a reminder of how Jews in generations past have struggled to preserve their traditions, identity and dignity.

There are many other interpretations of the holiday and its rituals but I will only add one more, my favorite: Why, the Rabbis asked, do we add a candle each night? If there was just one jar of oil and it lasted for eight days, wouldn't one expect the flame to get smaller each night? Yes but... The lights of the menorah, we are taught, are holy. They symbolize dedication and commitment to that which is most precious. To go from eight lights down to seven and so on would suggest a decline in holiness; we therefore increase the number of candles each night so that we may ourselves ascend in holiness.

Instructions for lighting the menorah: The candles are placed in the menorah beginning on the right side. They are lit from the left so that the newest candle is lit first each night.

The traditional blessings using feminine instead of masculine language are available from the synagogue office. As you prepare to light the candles each night, consider dedicating that evening's candles to a person, group or value that has helped or will help you ascend the ladder of holiness.

May your Chanukah season be filled with light.

Brotherhood Thanks

To Ellen Goldstein and Nathan Robinson for the great job they did teaching Israeli Folk Dances at the D'la'at Dance.

To Phil Charney for his hard work in helping putting together the D'la'at Dance.

—Barney Ugarte
CSZ Brotherhood Chair

Alex Rader

ART IN STONE

Granite & Marble Memorials

The only Jewish monument company in the Bay Area



1174 El Camino Real
Colma, CA 94014
(415) 755-1548
(415) 755-8539
FAX (415) 755-1064

Beat the crowd!

UAHC CAMP SWIG

SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA

is ready to go for 1994!

Pick up a 1994 brochure after November 15 from the temple office or from:

UAHC CAMP SWIG
703 Market Street, Suite 1300
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 392-7080



*Sessions fill fast—
register today!*

November Va'ad Report

The Va'ad Meeting of November 8 opened with approval of the Minutes from the October meeting.

Rabbi Kahn led our *D'var Torah*, with a thought-provoking passage from *Reform Judaism: A Centenary Perspective*, which challenged us to resolve conflicts which may arise between our obligations to the Jewish people and those to the larger society, perhaps best defined as obligations of "survival" and "service." The passage went on to reaffirm our additional obligation, as Jews, to serve as agents of hope and change in these challenging times.

Without missing a beat, the Va'ad moved from the profound to the significantly more prosaic, diving into a lively discussion of Chanukah celebratory options. Joe Hample, Chair of the Chanukah Party '93 Committee, led the Va'ad through the pros and cons of options ranging from casino to Karaoke. The Va'ad was unanimous in its endorsement of an early evening children's program and encouraged Joe to continue his fine Committee work to develop a program that will provide a fun-filled backdrop to the silent auction and raffle on December 11.

Turning to the Membership Committee Report, Carolyn Pines recommended nine individuals and three couples for membership. The Va'ad voted to approve all proposed, pending final information and appropriate handling by the Membership and Dues Committees.

Nathan Robinson provided an optimistic report on preparations for the celebration honoring Allan Gold. Va'ad members extended warm appreciation to the organizing committee for their exceptionally hard work, and to Mark Taubman-Walker for contributing his fabulous catering artistry, to ensure the success of this fundraiser.

Rabbi Kahn's report covered a number of issues. He reiterated the enthusiastic comments others had made about the UAHC Biennial and the significant role Sha'ar Zahav volunteers played in its success. Noting the press of heavy commitments, the Rabbi shared the challenges he faces in meeting the needs of individual CSZ members, honoring teaching commitments, and continuing to play an active role in other synagogue activities.

As the congregation prepares to embark on the annual budgeting process, President Tiela Chalmers posed several questions to the Va'ad pertaining to dues, High Holiday ticket policy and current Shabbat pushke practice. After considerable discussion, the Va'ad voted to continue current dues and High Holiday ticket policies. However, recognizing the substantial drop in pushke revenues, the Va'ad favored introducing more substantive pushke pitches, but not pushke baskets.

Bringing the Va'ad up to date on various other items, Tiela noted that our own Mike Rankin has been appointed to the UAHC Executive Committee, after many years of service on the National UAHC Board. The newly constituted Fundraising Committee is moving along nicely with plans for a non-member fundraising drive, and roof repairs are nearly complete.

The Va'ad adjourned with an enthusiastic if somewhat atonal version of *Oseh Shalom*.

—Susan Tubbesing
Acting Recorder

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

2	Thomas Yazman
2	Robert Sterman
4	Paul Quin
6	Susan Kaplan
6	Karen Fierer
7	Debbi Jacobs-Levine
8	George Lucas
8	Merry Luskin
9	Sara Felder
12	Bill Goldstein
12	Walt Leiss
12	Lane Schickler
14	Jill Rose
15	Ron Lezell
19	David Shaber
19	Don Albert
20	Michele Sullivan
22	Ellen Murland
24	Katherine Rosenblum
26	Jose Luis Moscovich
29	Susan Gelmis
30	Stanley Kern
31	Sam Thal

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

703 Market Street, Suite 340. San Francisco 415/ 982-3177



**HEBREW FREE LOAN
ASSOCIATION**

**We are the only Free Loan Agency.
We are supported entirely by donations.**

**INTEREST FREE
LOANS**

HFLA interest free loans are available throughout Northern California to begin a business, to end personal financial problems, to attend college, to help Jewish religious or educational organizations, for debt consolidation, for emigre resettlement needs, and to enroll children in Jewish Day Schools. HFLA has offered interest free loans in the Bay Area since 1897. We are only a phone call away!

14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos. 408/ 356-7576

1321 Howe Avenue. Sacramento 916/ 921-1921

3245 Sheffield Avenue. Oakland 510/ 532-6314

From the Cemetery

Your Cemetery Committee receives many calls from members and their families with a variety of questions. Some of the most frequently asked questions will be addressed in this column.

Who can be buried at the Sha'ar Zahav cemetery? Our cemetery is open to our members, their lovers (whether Jewish or not), and both of their immediate families (children, parents, siblings).

How much does it cost? Traditional ground burial costs \$2,978.38. This includes the price of the plot (\$1625), a recording fee (\$108), opening and closing fee (\$650), a concrete liner (\$550), and tax on the liner (\$45.38).

Why is a "liner" required? The concrete liner has four sides and a lid. It has no bottom, so it is in keeping with the Jewish tradition of not interfering with natural processes. The purpose of the liner is to keep the surface of the grave from subsiding as those natural processes occur.

What if I or my loved one desire cremation? Cremated remains can be buried in a plot which has been or

will be used for traditional burial. (For example, one partner can be buried and the other cremated, both using one grave.)

A plot at the center of our cemetery has been dedicated to the burial of cremated remains. It will be used for approximately 40 burials, and a memorial stone is being designed on which 40 names and dates will be engraved as needed.

The cost of use of this plot (including opening/closing fee and recording fee) is approximately \$550 plus a pro rata charge for the memorial stone and the engraving.

Are prices going up? Yes. Since our cemetery was established, we have found that prices go up a few hundred dollars every two years. Prices will be going up again around January 1. You can lock in today's prices now and make reasonable interest-free payments over time. Please consider making pre-need arrangements.

Feel free to call Richard Inlander, chair of the Cemetery Committee, with any further questions (821-4134).

UAHC

Continued from page 1

About a week before the Biennial, I received a somewhat frantic call from the national UAHC office in New York. "We need some help with ritual items for the Biennial," the plea went out. And so, CSZ's new portable ark graced the bimah during Shabbat services. And CSZ members Dev Noily and Ron Lezell were two of five people who sounded shofars to officially open the Biennial during its first afternoon plenary session.

During the Biennial, many Sha'ar Zahavniks were seen wearing the official volunteer identifier — a black V-neck T-shirt with the Biennial logo. Thanks to all Biennial volunteers from the CSZ family: Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Leonard Brill (who in addition to his volunteer shifts, ran to the Hilton Hotel to help UAHC staff just two days before the Biennial began), Tiela Chalmers, Daniel Chesir, Alison Cohen, Rosalinda del Moral, Laura DesertRain, Steve Elman, Simon Glinsky, Rebecca Gutterman, Ed Hammond, Trudi Chamoff Hauptman, Betty Kalis, Rose Katz, Nathan Kling, Susan Larson, Scott Levine, Eileen Levy, Judith Linzer, Phyllis and George Mintzer (who helped stuff registration packets before the Biennial began), Carolyn Pines, Jeff Rosenberg, Martha Rosett, Frances Rotolo, Barbara Savitz, Judy Schwartz, Rob Tat, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (who, in addition to his volunteer shifts, joined Leonard Brill at the Hilton to help UAHC staff in its emergency). Also thanks to Don Albert (who is a member of the National UAHC AIDS Committee), Richard Inlander and Ben Schalit for staffing the UAHC AIDS Committee table.

The day after the Biennial, I attended a UAHC Program Committee meeting where members discussed the convention. Every speaker began by praising the 600 Biennial volunteers (who worked 1,000 shifts). "Everywhere I turned, a black T-shirt was there to help me through the hotel, get me to my session room or find me a seat during a service or plenary session. The volunteers were friendly and knowledgeable." One Program Committee member stated that he'd been to 18 Biennials and that the volunteer effort in San Francisco was by far the best he'd ever seen.

The UAHC cannot thank you enough.

—Robin Leonard

Hills of Eternity Memorial Park

A Jewish Cemetery • A landmark since 1851

We offer Portals of Eternity: a majestic indoor mausoleum; Gardens of Eternity: traditional ground internment; inurnment, cremation, columbarium: all in the tradition and dignity



of our faith. A site chosen for its natural beauty, enhanced by meticulous care. Visit our beautiful new niche section.

Reserved areas for Congregation Beth Am, Temple Beth Jacob, Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Kol Emeth, and Congregation Peninsula Sinai on the peninsula; and Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in San Francisco.

Owned and operated by Congregation Sherith Israel
1301 El Camino Real, Colma, CA 94014 • (415) 756-3633

Payment plans can be discussed

Women's Shabbat Dinner

Don't miss the next women's shabbat dinner, prior to services, on Friday evening December 17. Beginning at 6:30 pm, in the synagogue library, the catered shabbat dinners are a real treat at the end of a hectic week. Join us to catch up on Chavurah activities and shmooze with other women in the congregation. Prices vary, so check with Audrey Adelson (510/849-3021) and let her know you are coming by Wednesday, December 15.

Jewish Lesbians and Bi Women of the South Bay

Chanukah Party! Friday, December 10, at 7. Come light candles, eat latkes, sing songs and participate in storytelling. Please bring a dish to share. For info and directions, call Maxine (408/984-3511).

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, non-members will receive a *Forward* subscription.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

Chair: Lane Schickler (255-9679)

Editing/Proofreading/Layout: Joe Hample, Judy Heiman, Richard Inlander, Betty Kalis, Rose Katz, Robin Leonard, Martha Moon, Carolyn Pines, and Ivan Vincente

Photography: Michael Bettinger

Advertising: Barney Ugarte

Distribution: Liz Goodman (coordinator), Joe Hample, Sam Thal, David Weinstein and Eli Weinstein

Typesetting: David Lester, Mouse Type Inc.

Printing: Lou Greene

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Anniversaries

- 1 Ellen Lewin & Liz Goodman
- 6 Susan and Linda Fraimow-Wong
- 14 Shelley Spiro & Gabrielle Kassner
- 17 Bonnie Bishop & Amy Weston
- 18 Joan Goldman & Rachel Maclachlan
- 28 Susan Weinstein & Shelley Adler
- 31 Steve & Florence Nacamulli

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Sunday, December 19

Women's Chavurah Bicycle Adventure

Back by popular demand, the Women's Chavurah is hitting the bike trail again. We'll meet at the Ferry Building and ride beside the piers of San Francisco, over the Golden Gate Bridge, and on to Sausalito for a mellow picnic lunch. We'll hop on the ferry to return to the City. It's a two-hour ride, with only a few uphill. Experience is not required. Beginners, as well as the more advanced, are sure to enjoy this bike trip. Call Sara Haber for more information (621-1248).

Dr. Diane Sabin

CHIROPRACTOR

281 Noe (at Market), San Francisco, CA 94114 415/252-5500

Real Estate
Business Law
Estate Planning
Litigation
Wrongful
eviction



100 Van Ness
21st Floor
San Francisco,
California
94102

Legal
Help.

Goldstein & Gellman
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Call David Gellman
415-621-5600

President's Column

Continued from page 2

this bid for equality. But, amazingly, the only opposition to the resolution came from someone who wanted to strengthen the resolution. The chair cut off debate after two speakers, saying the sense of the room was clear, and the resolution passed unanimously. The delegates also passed another resolution condemning the passage of legislation restricting gay and lesbian rights, and implementing a boycott (for UAHC events) of states where such legislation is in place.

Have we really come so far, that gay rights resolutions are not only passed by our mainstream Jewish organizations, but passed unanimously? It is true that the UAHC leadership is probably more liberal than the "Jew in the pew," and there was probably an element of political correctness in the vote, as well as the urge to "stop with the resolutions and the parliamentary mishegas already." I was a little disappointed that we did not get to address the delegates, to affect their hearts as well as their votes. But their hearts are clearly open, and in the right place.

In the end, then, it was a wonderfully affirming Biennial. It felt freeing: we don't always need to attend the workshops on welcoming gays and lesbians or on helping congregants with AIDS; we can be the full and complex group of people that we are, and not just Moishe-one-note. Even more significantly, we have allies. Our Jewish community is, increasingly, a place where we can be all of who we are. There is still work to be done, but that weekend, more than ever, we took our seat at the table with our landsmen. Ken y'hi ratzon; so may it be.

Game Night

Continuing a CSZ tradition, we invite you to the Annual Women's Chavurah Game Night and Potluck, on Saturday evening, December 25. We'll take your mind off Rudolph and the gang with good food and a chance to *win big*, at the home of Susan Stahl, 124 Everson, in San Francisco. Call Susan (333-6198) for specific directions and potluck advice. If you have a favorite game, be sure to bring it along.

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn (861-6932)

Officers:

President, Tiela Chalmers (431-4312)
Administrative Vice President,
 David Stein (863-4769)
Program Vice President,
 Susan Unger (954-4286)
Treasurer, Gary Sokol
Recorder, Mark Mackler

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Phil Chamey
 Daniel Chesir
 Ida Kuluk
 Ron Lezell
 Carolyn Pines
 Ora Prochovnick
 Nathan Robinson
 Lane Schickler
 Susan Tubbesing

Office Personnel:

Administrator, open
Rabbi's Secretary, David Couch

Committee Chairs:

Archivist, Bill Ashley-Dobbin and
 Bill Goldstein
Bequests and Donations, Richard
 Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, David Shaber
Brotherhood, Bamey Ugarte
Building, Ellen Gierson
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Audrey Adelson
 & Joan Lefkowitz
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dues, Lisa Katz and Roz Fuerman
Education, open
Endowment Fund, Richard Inlander

Finance, Brett Trueman
Fine Arts, Alice Prussin
Fundraising, Michael Zimmerman and
 Ellie Cohen
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Leadership Development, Irene Ogus
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Carolyn Pines
Newsletter, Lane Schickler (255-9679)
Oneg, Debbi Jacobs-Levine
Past Presidents Council, Don Albert
Personnel, David Stein
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Religious School, Trudi Hauptman
Ritual, Frank Yellin
Social Action, Stan Kern
Social Program, by committee
Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard
Women's Chavurah, Susan Tubbesing

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Please call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have the rabbi or a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Robin Leonard, Allyce Kimerling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Marc Mencher, Liaison).

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm.

Library Hours: Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

O' Chanukah O' Chanukah It's that party time of year
 O' Chanukah O' Chanukah It's time to volunteer

Call Joe Hample at 621-7675

Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy

SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL CHEVRA KADISHA

San Francisco ... 1501 Divisadero Street at Geary
(415) 921-3636

East Bay ... 3415 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette
(510) 284-3945

Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director

YOUR BUSINESS CARD BELONGS HERE

Call Barney Ugarte at (415) 386-2472

Adoption Connection

If you are thinking about adoption, Jewish Family and Children's Services' Adoption Connection can help. Adoption Connection is a full-service licensed adoption agency specializing in open adoptions. The agency's services include information and referral, educational workshops, counseling for birth parents and adoptive parents, home studies, child placement and adoptive parents' groups.

Adoption Connection serves San Francisco, Marin, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. For more information contact Adoption Connection (561-1252).

Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored onegs in October/November:

- 10/29 Sandy Portman and Ann Biderman in honor of the birth of Michael Aaron Portman
- 11/5 Anonymous donors in honor of the sixth anniversary of their kiddushin

A Legal Guide for Lesbian/Gay Couples

(new 7th edition)

by H. Curry, D. Clifford &
CSZ's own Robin Leonard



Nolo Press, 950 Parker Street, Berkeley, CA 94710; 800-645-0895 (fax).
Questions? Call 549-1976 (inside 510 area code) or 800-992-6656.

Please send me _____ copies @ \$21.95: _____

Californians add local sales tax: _____

Shipping: \$4 (1 book); \$5 (2-3 books): _____

Total: _____

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Name and address: _____

Classified

LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY to discuss books, plays and films? To exchange your views on art, politics and contemporary culture? Then join writer/educator Susan Sobel-Feldman's ongoing discussion group, *The Literarti Circle*. This group meets twice a month in Susan's Richmond District townhouse for lively analyses of stories, poetry, essays, plays and whatever else strikes our relevant fancies. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per meeting. For more information, call Susan (668-2272).

TWO BEAUTIFUL, AFFECTIONATE, healthy, playful female cats need a loving new home. (We're heartbroken to give them away, but one of us is very allergic.) Please call Kathy (327-2949).

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Gift Shop



Friday nights, 7:30-8:05 pm

FAMILY EYECARE

Dr. Barak Gale
Optometrist

180 Howard, by Main
2 Blocks from BART

(415) 543-9011



MICHAEL'S

337-5505

"Mobile" Regraining & Touch-up

Repair For All Wood and
Synthetic Furniture
Specializing in Burn Repairs

Residential & Commercial Accounts Welcome

High Holidays Contributions

Melanie & David Abkowitz	Dave Finacom & Shoshana Friedkin-Finacom	Michael Latz	Peggy Reamer
Miriam Abrams		Lewis Lehman	Debra Rein
Mike Abramson	Alan Fletcher	Robin Leonard & Lee Ryan	Jody Reiss
Steve Addison	Steven Forosh	Jane Levin & Robert Rifkin	Roslyn Reiter
Tali Adini	Heather Fox	Villa Levington	Dick Richards
Sandie Antar	Laura Fromm	Rhoda Levinson	Jeff Rosenberg
Lee Azus	Jonathan Funk	Lisa Levy	Sunny Rosenfeld
Diane Bache	Lori Ganz	Rebecca Lippel	Margaret Rossoff
John & Majorie Bachert	Allan Giannini	Anneliese Luebchow-Gardner	Lisa Ruben
Peter Barnes	Bruce Gibson	Catherine Lyons	Joel Rudick
Keith Barton	Jerilynn Gilbert	Judy Macks	Nancy Sadlier
Michelle Bashin	Al Glater	Andrew Mann	Stanley Saitowitz
Melinda Basker	Allan Gold	Barbara Manneheim	Cheryl Salem
Roy Bateman	Harold Goldfadden & Allen Dickstein	Paul Matzner	Barbara Savitz
Barbara Batts	Daryl Goldman	Thomas & Honore McIlhatten	Joel Schechter & Diana Scott
Judith Bell & Jim Greenberg	Jerome Goldstein	Laurie Meade	Debby Schlanger
Dan Bellm	Stewart Gooderman	Joan Meisel	Richard Schulist
Wayne Bender	Rosie Gozali	Peter Mendel	Karen Schuller
U.L. Berg	Martin Greenberg	Alan Michels & Laureen Kim	Juliette Sclessinger
Alan Berman	Maureen Grimm	Richard Miller	Ellen Scott
Leyna Bernstein	Sarah Groisser	Sherry Miller	Stephen Seligman & Mary Amsler
Mona Bernstein	Bruce Haller	George & Phyllis Mintzer	David Shaber
Brian Besser	Ellen Haller	Robert Mison	Maxine Shear
Michael Bettinger & Robert Goldstein	Allen Harris & David Gary	Julie Moed & Shelley Eisenman	Jeff Shuman
Nina Birnbaum & Clem Donahue	Leslie Hassberg	Ronald Moskowitz	Fred Silverman
Cecilie Birner	Stanley Hauer	Steve & Florence Nacamulli	Joshua Simon
Marsha Blachman & Amy Gentile	Lawrence Helman	Paul Nemrow & Jeff Forman	Jerome Singer
Elliot Block	Bruce Henry	Christian Nielson	Richard Sinkoff
Susan Gail Bluer	Jerry Herman	Marilyn O'Keeffe & Nancy Meyer	Barbara Sklar
Joshua Bobrowsky	Jason Honig	Lisa Ochs	Dore Steinberg
Janet Byron	Alex Ingersoll & David Stein	Hal Offey	Ronica Stern
Amy Capen	David Israels	Ellen Oppenheimer	David Stier & Amy Tyson
Phil Charney	Adam Joseph & Nancy Kates	Rena Orenstein	Julie & James Sudduth-Klinger
Seth Charney	Allan & Tybil Kahn	Gordon Osser	Martin Sugarman
Bernie Choden	Bruce Katz	Richard Ostreicher	Michelle Sullivan
Catherine Coates	Rose Katz	Tamar Pachter & M. Stacey Hawver	Rob Talbot
Dan Cohn	Pamela Kaufman	Marjorie Paul	Rob Tat
Jeri Lynn Cohen	Michael Kaufman	Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz	Caryn Tenin
Gail Cohen	Noel Kaufman & Nicole Grindle	Hal Podgur	Sonika Tinker
J. Amanda Corey	Joseph Kent	David Posner	Mark A. Troy
Joyce David	Taya King	Carole Priven	Dana Vinicoff
Jessie Davidson	Mark Klaiman	Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz	Genese Weber
Irene Dick	Elliot Klein	Kate Raphael	Alisa Weiner & Alison Scott
Robert Dobrow	Eva Konigsberg	Nais Raulet	Eli Weinstein
Lew Douglas	Ellen Kugler	Debra Reabock	Marcia Weisman
Nancy Epstein	Lucy Kuntz		Perl Werfel
Andrew Estrin	Martin Kupferman		Ruth Werner
Nancy Facher	Jean Kushman		Christine Witzel
Baum Feldman	Bill Latham		Marta Wohl
			David Zebker
			Ami Zusman

How To Reach The Officers

The president and vice-presidents are available to talk with you about your ideas or concerns. We look forward to talking with you, but would appreciate doing so at a time that works for our home and work schedules. Here is how to reach each of us:

Tiela Chalmers, president: 431-4312 (please call between 9 am and 9:30 pm).

David Stein, administrative vice-president: 863-4769 (please call between 2:30 pm and 9:30 pm).

Susan Unger, program vice-president: 954-4286 (voice mail—call anytime) or 863-3717 (for urgent calls between 5 am and 7 am, or between 6 pm and 8 pm).

In an emergency, the recording on the synagogue office machine (861-6932) will direct you to a service that will know how to find one of us.

Our Va'ad (board) meets upstairs in the library on the second Monday of every month, from 6:30 to about 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have a proposal or a report that you would like to present to the Va'ad, you need to contact Tiela two and a half weeks before the Va'ad meeting in order to get on the agenda.

Naches

To **Ron Lezell**, **Nomi Jatovsky** and **Misha Cohen**, on the birth of Elijah David Lezell-Jatovsky and the beginning of their new coparenting roles.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions of all sizes to mark any event and to add to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the Forward unless otherwise requested.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

We encourage donations to the General Fund in particular, because such donations can be used for any synagogue purpose.

Ron Wilmot, in honor of Richard Inlander's 50th birthday.

Eli Weinstein, in memory of Naomi Meyer.

Betty & Bernard Miller, in memory of Jeffrey Miller.

Perry Paker, in memory of Isadore Paker.

Perry Paker, in memory of Meyer Paker.

Brian Dinsmore, in honor of the purchase of the gay pride flag.

Joshua Schreier, in honor of the purchase of the gay pride flag.

Dianne Webb, in honor of the purchase of the gay pride flag.

Jane Zastrow, in honor of the purchase of the gay pride flag.

David Weinstein, in memory of Paul & Jeanne.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Harry Berenstein.

Nina Wouk & Pamela McDaniel, in memory of Mildred Brown.

Ron Lezell, in memory of Drew Siegel.

Sandra Blair, in memory of Hermina Tick.

Donald Abrams, in honor of Dana Vinicoff's truly haunting chanting of Kol Nidre.

Kaiser Brunch Fund

James Fast & William Rome, in appreciation of the brunches.

Library Fund

Mark E. Mackler, in honor of the birth of Jonah Evan.

Gordon Osser, in honor of Betty Kalis' Bat Mitzvah.

Mark E. Mackler, in honor of Debi Mazor's and Deborah Marks' new home.

Malia Lewis & Margot Damasas, in memory of John Payne.

Maggie Rochlin, in memory of Julius Wintz.

Music Fund

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold, in honor of Evan Arnold's first birthday.

Eric & Aaron Cooper-Keitel, in honor of Richard Inlander's 50th birthday.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Arnie Jackson, in memory of Richard D. Wright.

Annie Winters & Nina Raff, in honor of the birth of Reuben.

Torah Fund

Mark Mackler & Ingu Yun, in honor of Alvin & Sarah Chase.

AIDS Fund

Arnie Jackson, in memory of Richard D. Wright.

Arnie Jackson, in memory of Robert Schoen.

Chesir/Stein Music

Jerome Nodiff, in honor of David Stein and Daniel Chesir.

AFIKOMEN

JEWISH BOOKS AND ARTS



3042 Claremont Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705
Telephone (510) 655-1977, Facsimile (510) 655-3598

TAUSMAN ANTIQUES

5821 College Ave.
Oakland, CA. 94618
(510) 653-7998

Kingsley Moore
William Parkinson

DECEMBER

כסלו-טבת

1 Wednesday 17 Kislev	9 Thursday 25 Kislev Chanukah, 1st Day • 7pm, Children's Education meeting	15 Wednesday 1 Tevet Chanukah, 7th Day • 7pm, Newsletter Editing	22 Wednesday 8 Tevet
2 Thursday 18 Kislev • 7-9pm, Task Force on Non-Jews in Synagogue	10 Friday 26 Kislev Chanukah, 2nd Day • 7pm, South Bay Women's Dinner • 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Rabbi Kahn and Jonathan Comisar	16 Thursday 2 Tevet Chanukah, 8th Day • 6:30pm, Ritual Committee meeting	23 Thursday 9 Tevet
3 Friday 19 Kislev • 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Tova Green and Henry Mach	11 Saturday 27 Kislev Chanukah, 3rd Day • 9:30am, Kadimah • 10:30am, Shabbat Service, Nina Wouk and Frank Yellin • 7-11pm, CSZ Chanukah Party	17 Friday 3 Tevet • 6:30pm, Women's Shabbat Dinner • 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Kathy Simon and Linda Hirschhorn • East Bay Service at 644 Fairmount, Oakland	24 Friday 10 Tevet • 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Jody Reiss
4 Saturday 20 Kislev • 9:30am, Kadimah	12 Sunday 28 Kislev Chanukah, 4th Day	18 Saturday 4 Tevet • 9:30am, Kadimah	25 Saturday 11 Tevet • Women's Chavurah Game Night
5 Sunday 21 Kislev	13 Monday 29 Kislev Chanukah, 5th Day • 6:30pm, Va'ad Meeting	19 Sunday 5 Tevet • Women's Chavurah Bike Ride • 5pm, Brotherhood Potluck	26 Sunday 12 Tevet • 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch
6 Monday 22 Kislev • 6pm, Healing Service	14 Tuesday 30 Kislev Chanukah, 6th Day • 7:15pm, Intro to Hebrew • 8:30pm, Intro to Judiasm	20 Monday 6 Tevet • 6pm, Healing Service • 7pm, Newsletter proofing and layout	27 Monday 13 Tevet
7 Tuesday 23 Kislev • 7:15pm, Intro to Hebrew • 8:30pm, Intro to Judiasm		21 Tuesday 7 Tevet	28 Tuesday 14 Tevet
8 Wednesday 24 Kislev Chanukah Begins (First candle)			29 Wednesday 15 Tevet
			30 Thursday 16 Tevet • 7pm, Newsletter Distribution
			31 Friday 17 Tevet • 8:15pm, Shabbat Service, Mark Taubman-Walker

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

JANUARY FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

To place a display ad, call Barney Ugarte (386-2472).

To place a classified ad, call the office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

No late submissions will be published without a deadline extension arranged in advance with the newsletter chair. Any CSZ member may submit a typed, double-spaced article by mail or fax (861-6081) to CSZ, Attn: Gaily Forward.

East Bay Services

12/17 Claudia Bernard & Howard Herman's, 644 Fairmont, Oakland, 510/658-0123
Rabbi Kahn and Dana Vinicoff